

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-13 /082 W

----- 114479

R 031127Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2297

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2301

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, PGOV, SU, ET

SUBJECT: SUDANESE/ETHIOPIAN DISCUSSIONS RE ETHIOPIAN "REFUGEES"
IN SUDAN

REF: KHARTOUM 2280

1. EMBASSY RELIABLY INFORMED THAT MAJOR ASRATA DESTA, DIRG REPRESENTATIVE NOW VISITING HERE, HAS PROLONGED HIS STAY FOR SEVERAL DAYS. REASON APPARENTLY IS THAT SUDAN AND ETHIOPIA HAVE FOUND CONSIDERABLE IDENTITY OF VIEWS IN DISCUSSING FUTURE OF SOME 60,000 ETHIOPIAN RESIDENTS OF SUDAN. THIS GROUP, DESCRIBED BY SOME AS "NON-POLITICAL REFUGEES" IS NO DOUBT WORRISOME TO GOS AS SOURCE PAID RECRUITS FOR SOME NEW DISSIDENT ACTIVITY, WHILE ETHIOPIANS HAVE APPARENTLY MADE CLEAR THEY WOULD BE HAPPY HAVE THEM RETURNED TO ETHIOPIA. DESTA HAS BEEN HAVING MEETINGS WITH SUDANESE MININT MOMOUD ABU ZAYD ON SUBJECT, AND IT IS REPORTED THAT AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE HAS BEEN REACHED THAT ETHIOPIANS SHOULD RETURN HOME.

2. COMMENT: BELIEVE TERM "REFUGEES" SOMEWHAT MISLEADING. ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY HERE IS LARGELY COMPOSED OF INDIVIDUALS
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WHO ENTERED SUDAN FOR PERSONAL (E.G., BETTER JOBS), RATHER

THAN POLITICAL, REASONS. WHILE SUDANESE HAVE TRADITIONALLY
WELCOMED SUCH ADDITIONS TO THE LABOR FORCE, GOS IS
INCREASINGLY NERVOUS RE LARGE NUMBER ALIENS HERE IN WAKE
LAST MONTH'S ABORTIVE COUP PARTICIPATED IN BY SOME NON-
SUDANESE MERCENARIES FROM NEIGHBORING AFRICAN COUNTRIES.
WHETHER DISCUSSIONS HAVE ALSO COVERED ERITREAN REFUGEE COMMUNITY
HERE IS UNCLEAR.
BREWER

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NNN

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